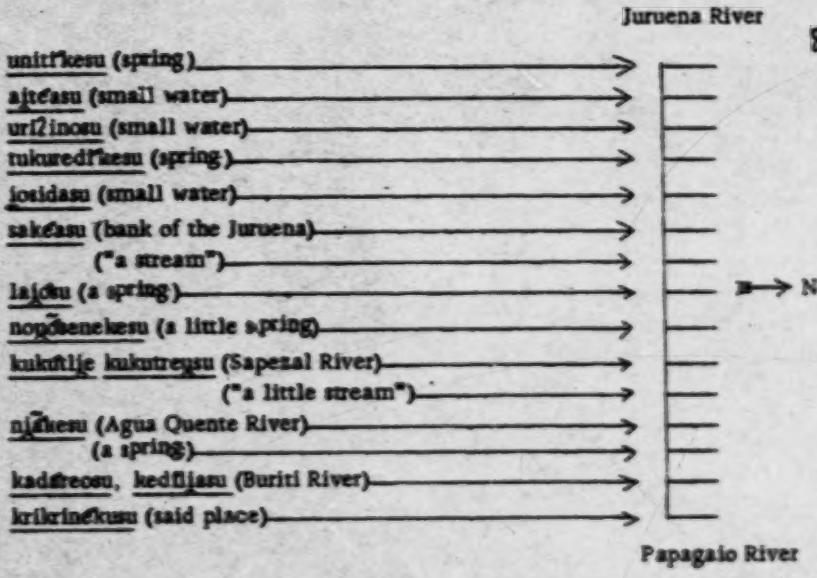

TRADITION

The Nambikwara have a sharp sense of tradition. We have read above (p. 50) a remark of B1 which shows him to be sadly cognizant of the decline of his race. Customs and techniques are generally considered as legacies of the "ancestors": 173 [183 329]

58. irõtiore ikõtage ũttige.
"The ancestors taught us how to coil it [the ribbon of rubber meant for making a ball]" (b1).

One single legend was found relating to the origin of the universe. [120] It is that of the Flood, the childrens' version of which we have already given. (1) Here is the text used by adults: 173 539

1. See above, p. 69.

59. narõdõe kãũhire
narukũhihire naukaũ̃aure
nahũtende kãũ̃rage naukõdo uĩ̃ere toõdige
the water had descended the water flooded everyone to die